

Parish of St Josephine Bakhita
English Martyrs, Litherland

Solemnity of The Epiphany of The Lord
Sunday 5th January 2025



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Who can I ask for help in my search for the Lord? How can I overcome doubt or disappointment when I experience them?

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE - 8-15 September 2025

Places are still available for the Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome, San Giovanni & Assisi, Monday 8 September - Monday 15 September 2025. Fr Mark and the Pilgrimage Company have now finalised the last remaining details of the flights:

Monday 8 September

10:15 am depart Manchester on Ryanair

13:55 pm arrive Rome

Monday 15 September

21:30 pm depart Rome on Ryanair

23:30 pm arrive Manchester

The timing of the flights is excellent, as it gives us more time in Rome on our arrival day and a full day before we depart for home.

The final total cost of the trip is £1588.

If anyone one is interested in booking, you need to take a booking form from the parish office as soon a possible, complete it and bring it back



SUNDAY THOUGHTS

An epiphany is an unexpected manifestation. In the case of this feast, it is the manifestation of the Messiah to the magi. These foreigners, who did not even believe in the God we do, who were not Jewish, so were not awaiting the Messiah (the Christ), recognised in this tiny baby lying in a wooden trough the newborn king of the Jews. We are those magi today. We are called to make the effort to see Christ made manifest in today's world. We can see Christ made manifest in the Eucharist, in fact affirming his presence when we respond "Amen" to "The Body of Christ." We can see Christ made manifest in our assembly, for he told his disciples that where two or three are gathered in his name, he too is present. We can see Christ in the person in need, for he also said that whatever we do for one of these least ones, we do for him. We can see Christ in the priest who presides at Mass, in the word of God, and in the sacraments. But perhaps most memorably, we see Christ in a true epiphany, when he reveals himself unexpectedly, as he did as a newborn in a stable, or much later to the fishermen whom he told to drop their nets on the other side, or as the risen Lord on the road to Emmaus.

The magi relied on both science and faith to guide them to the Lord. They observed the night sky and studied the movement of the stars and planets, drawing conclusions from the travels of these heavenly bodies. Without knowing what this remarkable star was, they realised its importance and journeyed all the way to Jerusalem. But, still a few miles from their destination, they needed guidance from the chief priests and the scribes (who quoted Micah's words) to direct them to Bethlehem. By science or faith alone, they did not know enough; together, they found the Lord.



Do you wonder if the magi, for at least a moment, doubted themselves when they ended up at a forlorn stable looking at a baby in a feeding trough? Or at least disappointed? Perhaps this was their true epiphany, finding the newborn king in a most unexpected place. For us too, doubts and disappointment may be precursors to an epiphany

Masses & Services for the coming week

DATE	English Martyrs	St Robert Bellarmine
Saturday 4th January	12.00pm Baptism - Niamh & Aaron Leigh	
Sunday 5th January <i>Solemnity of The Epiphany of The Lord</i>	10.30am People of the Parish	11.00am Mike Keelan
Monday 6th January	10.00am John Dunn	
Tuesday 7th January		10.00am Bill Houlton
Wednesday 8th January		
Thursday 9th January	10.00am - Jose Brito-Coll	
Friday 10th January	11.30am Funeral mass - Suzanne McQuade	10.00am Larry Riley
Saturday 11th January		
Sunday 12th January <i>Feast of The Baptism of The Lord</i>	9.30am People of the Parish 11.45am Baptism - Kemi & Kayo Adesina	11.00am - Ken Williams

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Peace in the World



MASS TIMES

Changes affecting our parish will take effect from Monday 6 January when new Mass times will be implemented. Weekday Masses will be celebrated in both English Martyrs & St Robert Bellarmine:

Monday & Thursday	10:00 am	English Martyrs
Tuesday & Friday	10:00 am	St Robert Bellarmine

Weekend Mass times will take effect from Sunday 12 January

SANCTUARY LAMP



We are running short on dedications for the sanctuary lamp. If you would like to sponsor the lamp for a week please just write your intention on an envelope and pass to the office with £5 offering

WHEN YOU PRAY - A clear path to a deeper relationship with God.

The course sessions will resume on Monday 6 January at 7.00pm.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Usually celebrated from 4.00pm - 4.30pm on Saturday. Fr Mark is often available in the 20 minutes before each Mass. Please pop into the sacristy to ask.



COME AND SEE - January 11th 10.30am - 4.00pm

The first Come and See of 2025 at the Irenaeus Project will feature a talk from Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp on The Wonder of God. All are welcome to attend. You are asked to bring a packed lunch, and a suggested donation is £10. All are welcome. For more information, contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or 0151 949 1199.



Introducing Jubilee – online session – 18th January 2025

All are welcome to join us for

[A general introduction to the Jubilee Year](#) with special guests including **Fr Jan Nowotnik**, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, **Christine Allen**, CAFOD Director, and **Kayode Akintola**, CAFOD's Head of Africa Programmes. Hear what Jubilee years are about, how we're celebrating as a global and national Church and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. Also featuring a special song by Catholic Group Ooberfuse and more. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday



MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS Archbishop Malcolm

will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King (L3 5TQ) on

Sunday 9 February 2025 at 11.00am. For more information, please contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

The Upside Down Gospel: Reflections on the Gospel of Luke. Session 1 January 15th 10.30am - 12.00pm

The Irenaeus Project will be running sessions throughout January on the Gospel of Luke. All are welcome to attend.



THANK YOU!

To everyone who worked so hard to make our Church look so beautiful over the festive period. It was amazing!



Time Out Tuesdays - January 14th 10.30am - 4.00pm Sisters of Our Lady of The Cenacle

Wanting time for yourself? Time to stop and reflect? Time to step aside for a while from the daily round of life? Then why not join The Sisters of Our Lady and the Cenacle on a Tuesday to get away for a few hours to stop and ponder the important things of life? No need to book, just come along and maybe bring a friend. Suggested offering for the day is £10, bring your own lunch, tea/coffee provided. For further information contact Sr Winnie 0151 722 2271.

Peace Sunday Mass and Lecture: A Mother's Forgiveness with Gee Walker January 19th 11.00am Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King



Join Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP and Pax Christi Merseyside for Solemn Mass at 11am to mark Peace Sunday. Afterwards, You are also invited to the Liverpool Archdiocese Justice and Peace commission's annual memorial lecture in the Gibberd Room at the Metropolitan Cathedral. Join Gee Walker who will talk about the murder of her son Anthony, forgiveness, reconciliation and justice. This is a partnership event by Pax Christi and the Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission. Tea and coffee will be available in the Gibberd Room after Mass and before the Lecture, which begins at 1.15pm. For more details and registration go to archdioceseofliverpool.churchsuite.com/events or click below

[A Mother's Forgiveness: Gee Walker talks about the tragic death of her son Anthony \(19-Jan-2025\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ENGAGED COUPLES TO PREPARE FOR MARRIAGE

The Archdiocese is now recruiting and training volunteer facilitators to join the marriage preparation team. The facilitator training will be held at St Helen's Church, Alexandra Road, Crosby L23 7TQ and consists of 5 sessions:

Monday 27 January 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)

Monday 3 February 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)

Monday 10 February 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)

Monday 17 February 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm)

Saturday 1 March 2025 (10.00am – 2.00pm)

This new team will be asked to offer marriage preparation course for couples twice in 2025. If this is something you are interested in, please contact m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.
"I encourage Christian communities to recognise the great benefit that they themselves receive from supporting engaged couples as they grow in love." (Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia 207).

JUBILEE 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

What is a Jubilee?

In the Roman Catholic tradition, a Holy Year, or Jubilee is a great religious event. It is a year of forgiveness of sins and also the punishment due to sin, it is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity.



When will the Jubilee begin?

The Jubilee Year begins with the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, on Tuesday 24 December 2024 and concludes on 6 January at the Feast of Epiphany 2026.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will celebrate Mass for the Solemn Opening of the Year at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Sunday 29 Dec 2024 at 11am. This celebration will also take place at our Co-Cathedral, St Mary of the Isle on the Isle of Man with Mass celebrated by Bishop Tom Neylon.

Pilgrims of Hope

Although the Jubilee is a worldwide celebration, Pope Francis has asked each diocese throughout the world to get involved and mark the Jubilee in its own unique way.

With the theme for the Jubilee 2025 being "Pilgrims of Hope", it's a great opportunity to discover afresh what it means "to be a pilgrim", not just by taking part in walks across our Archdiocese or the country to some of our amazing places or shrines, but also in seeing our whole lives as a pilgrimage from God to God, and our two Cathedrals and parishes as pilgrimage places. The Jubilee Year here in Liverpool will offer each one of us the chance to avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to reset our relationship with God and with each other.

The year ahead

There are many exciting plans being made in advance of the Jubilee. Please continue to look out for further updates on our Jubilee page as we continue our preparations: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development/jubilee

We look forward to accompanying you throughout this Jubilee year and in the words of St Paul: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Lord in your mercy...



NEW MISSALS

Two new missals are on sale to coincide with the introduction of the **new** Lectionary.

The Parish Mass Book. £7

Completely updated and re-set according to the new Lectionary. 6 volumes for the complete set, each volume used every 6 months. This will be used free of charge in church. Sunday readings and the Order of Mass included.

Sunday Missal. £18.99

The official New ESV Lectionary Readings for every Sunday in Years A, B & C and Order of Mass

The Sunday Missal provides the Order of Mass, along with the full text of each Sunday's scripture readings for the 3-year liturgical cycle.

Short introductions to every Mass help you prepare for Mass.

Extended reflections to each season of the church year.

A choice of elegant bindings, complete with four marker ribbons to match the colours of the liturgical seasons.

-- Stations of the Cross (for Lent) and Stations of the Resurrection (for Easter)

-- An introduction to praying the Rosary

-- A Pentecost Novena (nine days of prayer to the Holy Spirit)

-- A simple Morning and Night Prayer to memorise

-- A guide to Confession and an examination of conscience

-- Traditional prayers to Our Lady

-- An introduction to the Sacraments

-- And much more!

Both are now available in the parish shop.

SEFTON INLAND DEANERY

Proposed Mass Times in the light of the reduction of the number of priests by 3. The Deanery priests met on Monday 16th December to try to put into place a proposed Mass schedule that will enable us to cover the changes that take place in the first two weeks of January 2025. The changes that face us are the same that will be faced by every Deanery in the Archdiocese in the coming years. We are not alone in this. From Sat 11th Jan the following schedule will be in place.

Saturday

4.30pm: St Gregory,
5.00pm: Our Lady of Walsingham
6.00pm: Holy Rosary
6.30pm: St George

Sunday

9.30am: Our Lady, Lydiate
9.30am: English Martyrs
10.00am: St Benet
10.30am: Holy Rosary
11.00am: St Gregory
11.00am: St Robert Bellarmine.
11.30am: St George.

We have had to put this together prior to consultation because it has to be in place for the weekend of the changes. Consultation will begin with the DSC (Deanery Synodal Council) meeting on Jan 13th.

St Elizabeth's Church will celebrate a final Latin Rite Mass on Saturday 4th January at 5.00pm.

St Mary's Aughton final Sunday Mass will be at 9.00am on Sunday 12th January 2025.

Canon Chris Fallon, Mgr Philip Inch, Canon Mark Madden,
Fr Lister Tonge, Fr Bruce Walles. Fr Grant Maddock

DIOCESAN CONSULTATION - NEW ARCHBISHOP

“A Bishop’s task is to preside over a local Church as a visible principle of unity within it and a bond of communion with all the Churches.” (69)

“This is why the Assembly desires that the People of God have a greater voice in choosing Bishops.” (70)

XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2024

The Vatican Synod clearly says that in the appointment of bishops the voice of synodal bodies must be heard. The process is underway for the appointment of a new Archbishop of Liverpool. You are invited to contribute to this process to have your voice heard. This is an exciting development in the life of the Church! There will be two meetings, held with the blessing of Archbishop Malcolm, on:

Thursday 16th January 2025 at St Mary’s Leyland, PR25 1PD (7.00pm – 9.30pm) and

Saturday 18th Jan 2025 at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, L17 1AA (10.30am - 1.00pm)

Each gathering will be the same – so only come to one of them. There will be two parts to the meeting: Firstly, we will begin by looking at where we are as a diocese and our future development and secondly we will consider the qualities needed in our future Archbishop.

This is open to all members of our community here in the Archdiocese. To reserve a place at one of the meetings please fill go to: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk. Go to the events page and scroll down to find the online registration form.

Sacrament of Confirmation: Registration

Open - 13 January 2025 - 17 March 2025

The registration website will open on the 13 January and end on the 17 March. Young people in year 8 and above can register at liverpoolcalled.co.uk



WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to the children and staff of our schools - well rested and ready for a new term!



Saint Josephine Bakhita



“Be good, love the Lord,
pray for those who do not
know him. What a great
grace it is to know God!”